

## **ATTACHMENT B: REVIEW COMMENTS AND DOE RESPONSES**

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The draft EA was distributed for public comment in August 2001, and the public comment period ended on October 17, 2001. Copies of the draft EA were distributed by mail to identified interested parties, and multiple copies were placed in the public library in Rincón. A public notice of availability was published in the local newspapers announcing the availability of the draft EA for review. Public meetings were scheduled to be conducted on September 18, 19, and 20, 2001, in Rincón, but were canceled due to travel restrictions following the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Comments were received only from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding potential impacts of the proposed action on the endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and the plant *Buxus vahlii*. The beaches adjacent to the BONUS facility provide potential nesting habitat for the two species of sea turtle. A population of *Buxus vahlii* is present on property owned by PREPA adjacent to the BONUS facility. This plant species is known to exist only on Puerto Rico and St. Croix, and this is one of five known locations on the island of Puerto Rico, and one of the largest populations. DOE responses were transmitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service in a letter dated February 8, 2002. The Fish and Wildlife Service indicated their concurrence with these responses in a letter dated March 20, 2002, indicating that no further consultation was required. This correspondence between DOE and FWS is presented in Attachment A.